

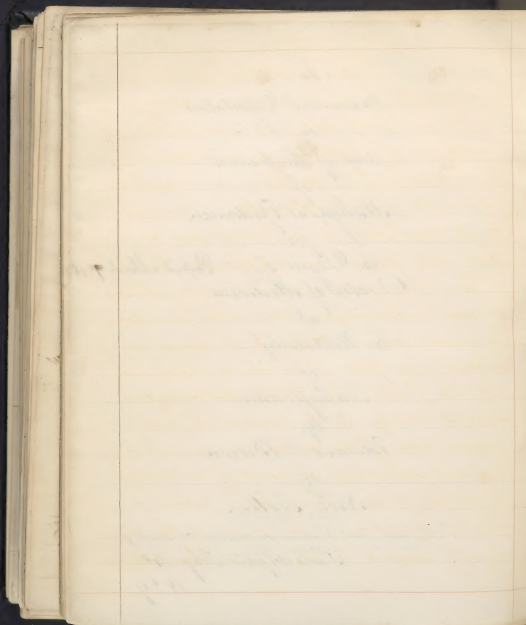
Feb 5th 1829
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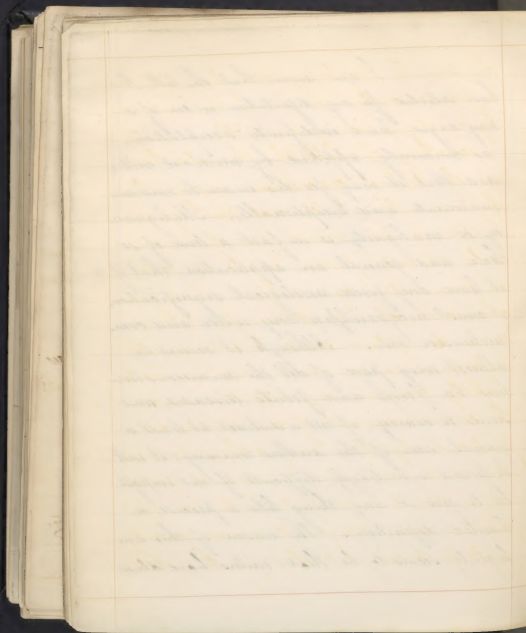
An
Inaugural Dissertation
on
some of the Causes
of
Malignant Epidemics
for
the Degree of *Paup March 7. 1829*
Doctor of Medicine
at
The University
of
Pennsylvania
by
Edward L. Brown
of
Nova Scotia.

Felix qui potuit unum cognoscere Causas. Virg.
Philadelphia Feb 4th
1829

a copy is retained in the University Library



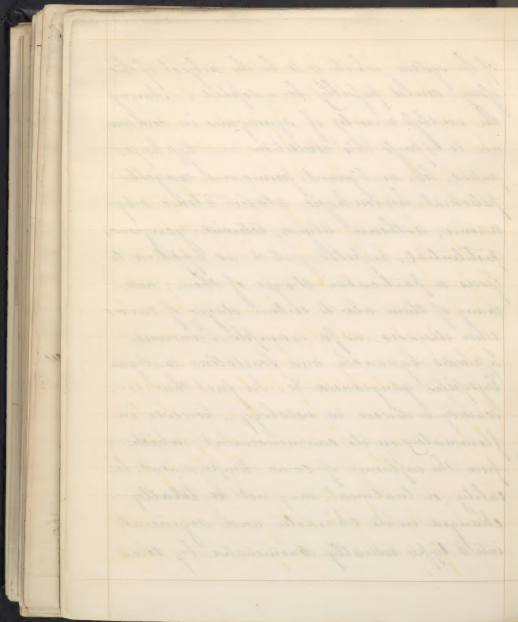
I am aware that the title I have selected for my dissertation is one of a very vague and indefinite acceptation, as commonly applied by medical writers, and that it may for this reason be considered inaccurate and exceptionable. Malignancy or malignity is in fact a term of so loose and general an application, that if it have any fixed nosological signification, it must necessarily be a very wide and comprehensive one. Although it occurs in almost every page of all the numerous treatises on fevers and febrile diseases, and seems to convey, if not a distinct, at least a general idea of the authors meaning; it will be found exceedingly difficult if not impossible to give it any thing like a precise or limited definition. The reason of this ambiguity seems to be, that writers have abused



the term by employing it too frequently and too promiscuously, and I may venture to add by employing not infrequently to express a something of which they themselves had not the clearest conceptions, and of which they were willing to conceal their ignorance.

But the mere consideration of names could not and I presume ought not to deter me from writing on a subject, which, from circumstances I shall hereafter take occasion to explain, made a considerable impression on my mind, and has consequently occupied my attention since the commencement of my studies more particularly than any other. Such indeed is the present state of medical nomenclature, that it is doubtful whether an appellation more appropriate or more generally employed to designate that peculiar state

of the system which is to be the subject of this
essay could possibly be adopted. Among
the endless variety of synonyms in common
use to express this condition, are, typhoid,
putrid, low, malignant, pernicious, congestive
petechial, hemorrhagic, ataxic, atonic, ady-
namic, asthenic, algid, icteric, gangrenous,
pestilential, hospital, jail &c as applied to
fevers or particular stages of them; and
many of them also to certain stages of various
other diseases, as for example, Pneumonia
Typhodes, Diphtheria and Scarlatina maligna,
Erysipelas gangrenosa &c. In fact there is
scarcely a disease in nosology, however in-
flammatory in its commencement, in which from
the influence of cause, temperament, lo-
cality or treatment, may not be totally
changed in its character and degenerate
into a type usually denominated by some



one of the above appellations. Then and besides these certain terms of a still more general and extensive application, some of which being very true it may not be improper to notice. By Brown, whose greatest fault was too wide a generalisation, this state of the system was termed Asthenia or debility, which he divided into two classes, viz. direct Asthenia or that produced by a deficiency of the normal stimuli and excessive excitability; and indirect, which was owing to superexcitation and deficient excitability. Malignant diseases for the most part he ranked in the latter class; although he erroneously placed Typhus in the former. By Fordyce it was called depression of strength, by others prostration of the vital powers, atony, debility, weakness, sedation, laxity, putrescency, sinking.

It would be superfluous and foreign to my purpose to enter into a discussion of the derivation, signification, and merits of these several appellations; especially since there is not one, I presume, against which there might not justly be raised many serious and weighty objections. It is indeed a fact scarcely to be disputed; that names so puzzling to the student and so burdensome to his memory, bearing as they do, in their very sound a convincing proof of the ignorance of the times in which they were adopted, should continue to be tolerated, and even cling to with a kind of religious fondness, in the present enlightened era of medical science. Perhaps no two sciences have undergone so great a revolution within a few years as those of Chemistry and Medicine and yet how different is the present state



of their respective nomenclatures; while the
former by rejecting all its antiquated su-
perfluities and substituting terms which
convey to the learner a brief definition of
the substance or property they are intend-
ed to represent, has arrived at the highest
degree of perfection; Medicine is groaning
under the incumbrance of an obsolete and
senseless jargon; totally unworthy of the
present elevated & philosophical rank
of the profession - This roaring and super-
stitious veneration for the blunders of anti-
quity cannot be of long duration, a hope-
ful change the constant result of prop-
riety improvement is to be anticipated,
a change calculated to facilitate the
progress of the student, contribute to the
utility of the sciences and advance its
reputation and that of its teachers and

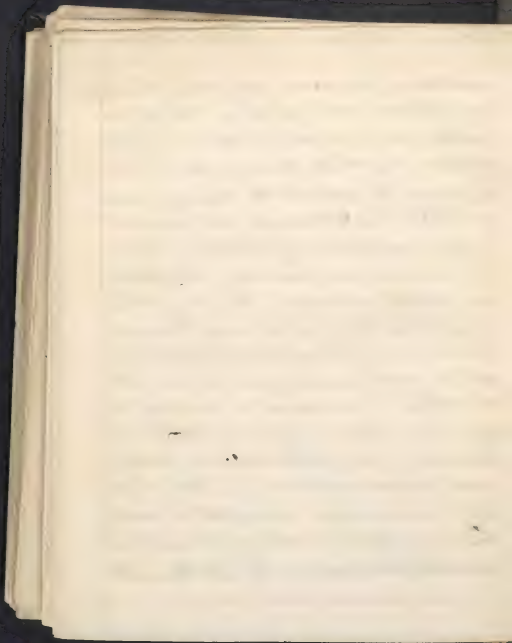


practitioners in the eyes of the world —

The word malignant is derived from the Latin *malignus* and this last from *malus* bad, and in common language is applied to any thing of a malicious or inauspicious nature. In medicine it is generally made use of to signify a tendency of the solids and fluids of organic bodies to destruction and decomposition: or in other words to become subject to the laws of common chemical affinity; and is applied promiscuously to the latter or what is called the sinking stages of fevers as well as most inflammatory diseases. — Medical writers of all ages have concurred in ascribing to a certain unknown power, connected with organic life, the salutary property of repelling the operations of noxious agents and of restoring injured and disorganised parts to their former healthy



condition - The name assigned to this wonderful power varies according to the different authors who have made it the basis of their respective hypotheses, thus it is the *poiesis* or *salva* of Hippocrates, the *anima medica* of Stahl, the *Archæus* of Van Helmont & the *vis medicatrix* of Cullen - The nature and *modus operandi* of this power are entirely unknown, but its effects are unquestionable, of which one of the most common is inflammation, which with all its numerous modifications and terminations is considered a healthy process. But when the efforts of nature exhausted by the continuance of mortifying agents or overwhelmed by their intensity are no longer adequate to resist these aggressions, a series of phenomena supervenes, characterised by all the well-



well known marks of approaching dispo-
sition; and the system, which had been pre-
viously subject to the laws of organic or
vital chemistry, begins to feel the influence
of those which govern common inorganic
matter - To these phenomena the general
appellation of malignity has been attached
by the common consent of most writers
who have touched on this subject - There
is indeed nothing in it of a specific, or unin-
telligible nature, it is the sum of patholo-
gical effects of certain noxious agents ac-
ting on the living system and modified by
the variety and intensity of those ^{agents} ~~causes~~; the
particular tissues on which their action is
developed and the temperament of the
patient who happens to fall under their
influence - Now what has been said some
conception may, perhaps be formed of the



meaning and latitude I would attach
to the term I have chosen for my title page.
I am sensible of the sameness and imper-
fection of my attempts to describe it, but
find myself incapable of offering anything
more definite or satisfactory.

The precise nature or proximate cause
of this condition has long been and still
continues to be a matter of dispute. It
seems to depend on the vitiation of those
two great functions of the animal econo-
my, which are immediately essential to
the preservation of existence, viz the nervous
and sanguiferous systems. The condition
of the former is evinced by the prostration
of the locomotive apparatus and that of
excretion, the relaxation of the sphincters,
the depressed state of the senses & intelle-
ctual faculties &c. That of the latter



by the weak and almost imperceptible
pulse, laborious respiration, defective secre-
tion, passive hemorrhage &c. - The distur-
bance of these two great functions must
necessarily involve all others which are
either closely connected with or depend
immediately on them; hence the depressed
state of digestion, nutrition, colorification,
secretion, absorption &c. - The question,
which of these systems the nervous or circula-
tory is primarily affected and which
now immediately gives rise to febrile dis-
eases has occupied the schools of medi-
cine from its earliest infancy down to the
present day and has given rise to the
two famous theories of pathology, humoral
ism or that of the fluids and solidism
or that of the solids. The ancient doctrine
of the depletion of the blood and purgation
has



tion of the fluids has long since been almost
entirely neglected and in fact is now near-
ly exploded. This is the result of numerous
experiments performed on different animals
by different physiologists, among which those
instituted by Dr. A. Sybert & graduates of
this college and published in his inaugural
thesis seem to have been very satisfactory
and conclusive on this point. In many
years the subject has attracted but little
attention, until very lately the experiments
of the celebrated Majendie, M. Solard de
Mortigny and others would ^{seem} to favor the
establishment of this old & neglected the-
ory. According to these experiments, it
would appear that injections of distilled mat-
ter into the veins of animals were followed
by all the phenomena usually exhibited
in putrid fevers. And it is in this man-
-ner



manner, by the absorption of fulvous matter
that Majendie accounts for the fatal results
arising from wounds received in dissection.
The monstrous and glaring absurdities of the
humoral pathology have in the opinion of
many excellent pathologists of the present
day been the cause of running into error
on the opposite extreme, and notwithstanding
the general prevalence of the opposite
doctrines, humoralism under certain modi-
fications and amendments is daily
gaining ground. Dr. the use of organic
chemistry substances taken into the
stomach, or applied to an abscess or surgery
have been detected in the blood and secre-
tions, and even in the solids as the brain
in their essential and formal state -
and it is well known that the urine may
be rendered acid or alkaline and again



neutralized by the exhibition of antivenereal
these qualities. Medicines injected into
the blood vessels produce effects similar to
those resulting from their application to
the stomach and alimentary canal, it
may then I think be fairly inferred that
malignant agents may in like manner be abso-
bed, carried into the circulation & produce
effects similar to those developed from their
application to the solid. Another argument
is the vitiated condition of the blood in ma-
lignant diseases, for although it may never
exist in the vessels in a dissolved or fluid
fibrinous state, it cannot be denied that
it coagulates much slower than ordinary
in most of these cases. But whether this
condition of the vital fluid be the true
and original proximate cause of Malignant
phenomena or only an effect of a

of a succeeding debilitation of the solids / a ques-
tion, which is perhaps not yet satisfactorily
solved. It must be conceded, that such a
condition of the fluids existing whether prima-
ry or secondary must reciprocally affect
the solids, which are famed, and receive their
stimulus of action from them; and in this
way materially assist the efforts of nature
in their reinstatement to a healthy condition.

I have been led to offer the above remarks
from a conviction that the influence of the
fluids in Pathology has been undervalued,
overlooked and neglected. — Many of
the phenomena of malignant diseases may be as-
cribed to a defective elaboration of arterial blood or
what is called Hematosis resulting from the
depressed condition of the organs by which
this function is performed; and also to the
highly congested state of the capillaries



of one or more of the internal organs in consequence of the preceding nervous irritation; by which means large quantities of blood being as it were isolated and detached from the circulating mass, a deficiency of that fluid so necessary to the performance of all the functions and particularly the secretion of the nervous influence, is the direct result. The fatal effects of extensive general prostration so often experienced in these cases may on this hypothesis be very plausibly and rationally accounted for - According to the nervous pathology of which Hoffman and Wallen may be considered the founders, most want diseases were attributed to the direct sedative agency of certain remote causes, as human and marsh effluvia, cold &c on the sensorium commune, diminishing the secretion of nervous energy and thereby inducing



a state of general debility, by the consequent depression of all the other vital functions.

Now that this effect should take place according to the Gallenian School, it is necessary that these remote causes be so powerful, or that the vital resistance be so weak, or that both these circumstances be combined in such a manner, that reaction is prevented from taking place.

Having made these preliminary observations, I now proceed to what is more particularly the subject of this essay, viz. the remote causes of Malignancy. Etiology is divided into remote and proximate, of which the latter has already been cursorily noticed; the subsequent observations will consequently be confined exclusively to the former. Remote causes are subdivided into predisposing and exciting - thus a person of a lymphatic tempera-

ment.



-ment is said to be predisposed to Pthisis
but this predisposition might remain inert
for an indefinite time without such a ter-
mination, were it not called into action by
the application of some exciting cause, as
told to - This nice subdivision is doubt-
less not without utility, but the line of dis-
tinction appears to be a little obscure and
equivocal; at least I must confess my ig-
norance of any certain discriminating cha-
racters I hope to be pardoned if I some-
times confound them -

The *modus operandi* of causes has
long been the subject of much ingenious &
animated discussion - The point most
controversial is whether there exist any phy-
sical agents, morbid or salutary which
when applied to the living system are capable
of producing directly debilitating effects.

Cullen and his followers supposed
this dogma. He taught that animal
and vegetable miasms, cold, the depressing
passions & some medicines called Sedatives
exercised an immediate power of depressing
the nervous energy. The opposite doctrine
maintains that all natural substances are
irritants, that all activity is indirect, &
that the debility introduced in one organ
is counterbalanced invariably by a corres-
ponding exaltation in another. However in-
genious and plausible this may appear, there
are cases on record especially of plague-cho-
lera, and what are called rigid convulsions
which from the commencement to the termi-
nation no symptoms of exalted action were
discoverable, and I am persuaded I have
witnessed cases of this character. There
are also certain medicines such as Opium



acid, digitalis, tartar emetic and other saline
purgations, whose exhibition is so rapidly
followed by sedative effects that it is pro-
blematical whether they are capable of produ-
cing any other. There can likewise be little
doubt respecting the operations of cold & the
depressing passions -

Contagion is a word of ominous
import and has long been the favorite sub-
ject of the most intelligent of the physicians.
Its nature and modes of operation are
inescapable it affords a very convenient
subterfuge to avoid further investigation -

Except in Variola and one or two others
of the Eanthemata it is now entirely rejec-
ted by the best pathologists. There are how-
ever some facts related by Pingle, Blane, Hay-
garth &c. such as the army of Sir John
Moore and the court infected by some crimi-
nals.



mal's undergoing trial, which are not easily explained on any other hypothesis. The most rational and philosophical method of reconciling these statements is by supposing the air of ships, jails, hospitals &c. to be rendered impure by being too frequently inhaled in the want of a free ventilation, and that it is capable also of adhering to the clothes of persons so confined, and thus conveying the disease by germs. On this head the arguments of Professor Chapman on Hygiene in his lectures are very conclusive and satisfactory - Having thus cursorily noticed the origin, I shall pass to the consideration of those causes of malignant diseases which having come under particularly under my personal observation will occupy a greater share of attention. These may be comprised under three heads, viz. venereal miasmata. Next I thought,



and depression of the nervous system by mor-
tal affections - The miasmatic doctrine
has lately engrossed considerable attention,
not a little scepticism with regard to its ex-
istence has been excited, and some well wil-
ling essays on the subject have lately appeared
in the medical journals from different parts
of the world. In this city a new learned
and ingenious paper to this effect has been
published by Dr. Poli in the Journal of
Medical Sciences in which the existence of
Miasmata is called in question, and the
production of what are commonly called
miasmatic diseases deduced from very dif-
ferent sources, these arguments are sup-
ported by a great number of facts illustra-
tive of his hypothesis. In Italy also this
subject seems to have attracted attention;
a paper from Dr. Folchi of Rome was lately



read by Mr. Den at the Medical Society, in
which he endeavours to prove that the cause of
intermittent and other fevers is to be found in
what he calls a deficiency of electricity. His opinion
is very distinctly and ably discussed.
Following the reading of the paper, the arguments
on both sides were cogent, and it was dif-
ficult to determine which merited the prefe-
rence. It appears indeed a little surprising
that the most frequent and destructive mala-
dies which "flesh is heir to" should be ascribed
to the agency of causes, which are intrinsically
imperceptible, and can exist only in the ima-
gination; which elude and elude ever with
our present means of analysis continue
to elude our most diligent investigations.

But however unphilosophical the admission
of such an agent may appear, the doctrine
of miasmata must remain unshaken until

a more rational one be discovered to take its place
and the facts I am about to relate will I
presume have a tendency rather to support its
validity —

Every body who has
heard of the Bay of Fundy, knows that the
tide at the full and change of the moon rises
to the almost incredible height of 30 or 40 feet.
This bay after a course of some hundreds of miles
becomes contracted into a strait of about a mile
in breadth, and afterwards becomes considerably
expanded forming what is called the Basin
of Minas which is about 80 miles in length and
20 in breadth — The country about the shores of
this basin constitutes the most fertile and
flourishing part of the provinces of Nova Sco-
tia, and this circumstance is owing to the
great extent of marshy situation between
the shores of the basin and the uplands and
between on the shores of the numerous rivers which



empty into the basin - These marshes are composed entirely of alluvial soil without a trace of siliceous earth for the depth of many feet - They are covered by the salt water only in the time of the highest tides and then only to the depth of 3 or 6 feet - The only kind of vegetable which appears on their surface is a peculiar kind of sedge called salt grass, which grows very thick to the height of 6 to 15 inches and is mown by the farmers and pressed for their cattle - The original settlers of this country, the French, had ascertained that it was enclosed from the sea a considerable portion of these marshes which proved a most valuable acquisition, requiring little culture and abounding in rich and various harvests - Since the conquest and cession of the country to the British many accretions have been made to the ancient dykes, so that at present the sea is excluded from

an extent of many thousand acres. In the summer of 1824 an enclosure of 7 or 800 acres was completed; in the spring of 1825 all the vegetable matter & the diversion of their common supply of salt-water decays and on the approach of the summer months were gradually decomposed; whilst in countless quantities of animalcula and insects spring to life and are rapidly devoured. About the middle of July the effects of this decomposition began to be displayed among the inhabitants of the district in the vicinity of this recent dyke. This section of the country has always been proverbially healthy inasmuch that it was said to starve its physicians. The uplands on which the inhabitants dwell are elevated from 1 to 200 feet above the level of the sea and the atmosphere is generally filled with the salt vapor arising from the shores which the reflux of the tide leaves uncovered in some places.

for many miles, or with the fragrance of the lux-
uriant vegetation from the intervening dyked mar-
shes. In the short space of six weeks, viz from
the middle of July to the latter end of August
of about 500 inhabitants more than one hundred
in the immediate vicinity of the decaying veg-
etables fell victims to a most deadly and ma-
lignant epidemic - scarce a family escaped
and many lost 4 or 5 from their number - I was
present in many of these cases and although
then uninitiated in the study of medicine, so
uniform and unequivocal were the symptoms,
that a very accurate judgment might be gained
by the most indifferent observer. The tempera-
ment as usual in healthy country places
was almost universally sanguine, the habit
full and plethoric. But so great was the pre-
disposition of the system to disease that the ap-
plication of the most trifling causes was suf-



cient to develop the most alarming symptoms - These were slightly varied during the first 24 hours in different subjects according to the tissues which received the primary impression, but after the sympathies of the general system became involved, they were strikingly uniform; and prostration succeeded so rapidly that the signs of reaction were often scarcely discernible. Among the first was the case of a young merchant, who having slightly scalded his foot with a nail, experienced a violent extension of the whole limb, to which sloughing succeeded and he narrowly escaped a fatal issue - His nose was attacked with malignant erysipelas, of the face, great prostration of strength, low delirium &c, but fortunately for her, her residence was at a considerable distance in the country whither she was removed, and after a long illness partially recovered - & half palsy major.



in superintending his hay harvest accident-
ly picked his finger with a thorn from a tree
the in a few hours he experienced severe pain
in the part extending up to the shoulder &
clavicle, in the course of the night after the
accident; edema took place and spread
rapidly up the arm to the neck and face, in
eight hours gangrene followed and speed-
ily terminated his existence. A robust farmer
had the cut of the face slightly removed by
the scratch of a cat. I saw him about 48
hours afterwards when not a feature of his
face could be distinguished. They were all
blended in one confused mass.

Globus infamis et confusus pondere tumens.
The vital energies were at the lowest ebb
and he expired in a few hours. His wife
was taken ill and died immediately after
her symptoms except the edema were precisely



similar. Between 20 and 40 children, sometimes
40 or 50 in one family from what under ordinary
circumstances would be considered a slight
cold. Some experienced the fatal effects of Cy-
nanche Maligna in its most deadly form. In
two cases a perfect membrane was thrown off
showing evidently the existence of inflammation
but without the slightest benefit to the patients.

I could detail many similar cases, which come
under my observation, and which I perfectly re-
collect were they necessary to support any parti-
cular hypothesis; but the only point I wish
to establish from the above cases is that the
cause whatever it might have been, was a
common one, and that its influence did not
extend beyond the neighborhood of the recent
Epidemic. The first of these positions I think espe-
cially inferrible from the similarity of effects, for
however varied the first symptoms might be.



on account of the peculiar nature of the ex-
acting cause or the lesion or organ primarily af-
fected, they were universally succeeded by that
train of symptoms which so strikingly charac-
terises the march of all malignant diseases
and which it would be superfluous to enu-
merate, as they must be present in the mind
of every one who has witnessed a fatal case of
Typhus or Yellow fever. That the cause was not
exclusively heat, moisture, vicissitudes, wind or the
general situation of the atmosphere is deducible
from the limitation of the disease to one particular
spot, from the general prevalence of health in
the country around, and in particular from the
immunity of 2 or 3 families, one of which was only fur-
ther which although in the immediate proximity
of the marsh happened to occupy very elevated
situations, placing them in all probability above
the level of the malarious taint. - Notwithstanding



what has been adduced in favor of malaria
as objectives of very considerable weight must not
be overlooked. viz that in former instances of simi-
lar and even much more extensive enclosures of
marsh, no such consequences as far as I can learn
were exhibited; that, next, respecting the one in
question in which more than 1000 acres were
included, was finished in 1813 & 14 but was man-
aged as I ascertained from inquiry by no such
late engineers. The circumstances can only be
attributed to the temperature and peculiar state
of the weather during the prevalence of this mal-
ady; and this brings me to the second general head,
viz. Heat and drought - The agency of Heat in
the production of malarial and malignant
febriles, has I believe never been seriously
called in question - Their association as causes and
effect must be ever present to the mind of the
classical reader who has turned the pages of Homer



Thyodites, Lucetins and Lacites - I shall omit
making any general observations on the meteorologi-
cals of that as a metaphis agent and confine
myself exclusively to matters of fact, concerned
that facts are much more important and valu-
able than Theories and will consequently prove
more acceptable. - During the prevalence of
the above epidemic and about a fortnight
previous to its accession, the uniformity &
intensity of the temperature were very remark-
able - the thermometers in the shade during the
day ranged from 75 to 95 Falt. This is not un-
usual during the months of July & August
in a short time - the only thing remarkable was,
its uniform & uninterrupted continuance - For
followed after day and week after week, with-
out any perceptible ~~and~~ change in the temper-
ature or other meteorological phenomena - The
ble a upsets for our day with very slight altera-



him would have been applicable to sight in due
season - The atmosphere was loaded with smoke
from the continuat^{ion} of the back settlers in clearing
their lands, to such a degree that objects were
not visible at the distance of a few yards - This
is I presume a sufficient proof of the levity of
the atmosphere, though to what degree cannot be
precisely determined as no barometrical register
was kept in the neighborhood. The sun exhib-
ited a red & fiery appearance throughout the day
but more especially in the morning and evening, which
was doubtless owing to the interposition of the
dense smoke; and to this cause may also be
attributed the mildness of his rays in Scotland.
Possibly, it was not ~~perceptible~~ to the eyes to gaze
at him steadily in some minutes; there was
scarcely a breath of wind during the whole time
which, in case it had blown would speedily have
dissipated the smoke. Another very remark-
-able



The circumstance was the absence of dew, not
a drop was deposited. whether this was owing
to the dryness of the atmosphere or perhaps
more probably to the radiating power of the
smoke preventing the deposition of dew in
the same manner as the clouds do, or whether
to both these causes jointly is not for me to de-
cide. The drought during the whole period
was excessive for 3 or 4 weeks there was not
a refreshing shower, not even a cloud was
seen for an instant to obscure the scorching
rays of the sun. The fires kindled in the forests
spread far and wide devastating and consuming
thousands of acres of their wood and not sparing
the villages & towns which stood in
their way. It was during this period that the town
of Miramichi in New Brunswick was consumed
in which more than 100 of the inhabitants perished.
This state of things continued until about the



last of August or first of September, when
the occurrence of a violent thunder storm entire-
ly changed the face of affairs - The air became
cool and clear, the sun resumed his wonted
appearance and a speedy stop was put to
the progress of the disease - How out the limits
of this effect already extended as far as the rules
of propriety will justify - Should proceed to offer
some remarks on the effects of what are usual-
ly termed the depressing passions viz. Fear,
Grief and Melancholy - Our knowledge with re-
gard to these as well as of every thing connected
with the nervous system is necessarily very limited
and all attempts to describe their nature is
little better than speculation - Their seat in the
human system is even disputed, Richat locates
them in the stomach and solar plexus; most
physiologists however concur in ascribing them
vigor to the brain - Ample evidences of this



effects abound in the history of medicine, one of
the most remarkable perhaps is the susceptibility
of an army to pestilential diseases after
a defeat. I might here attempt to show
how the phenomena of Malignant diseases
are modified by the different lesions and
diatheses, would the narrow limits of an
Inaugural Thesis admit of it; I shall only
remark that the mucous coat of the stomach
and intestines from their numerous sympathetic
connections with all the vital organs and es-
pecially the brain is most prone to give rise
these phenomena, I that subjects of this kind
& those in whom the fluid predominates as
well as those previously debilitated by dis-
eases are more liable to these forms than others.

It will be seen that I attribute
the epidemic which I have attempted to de-
scribe to the joint influence of miasmata, and

heat - whether my inferences are correct or not
The Faculty must judge; I can only say
that the statement as far as it goes, has been
given with the strictest adherence to truth
and candour. It may be expected that I should
offer some observations on the treatment in-
stituted in these cases; but as I could not
then be a competent judge of it, I shall pass
it by with merely remarking, that very
little was done, and that in a few of the first
cases when inflammatory symptoms prevailed
to a slight degree, venesection was resorted
to, with the result of increasing the prostran-
cia of strength and inducing gangrene in
the arm, commencing at the axillae when
the blood was drawn - No post mortem
examinations were allowed -

The melancholy fate of my countrymen
and companions just excited me to embark

in the study of medicine, which I commenced in the ensuing autumn; and my inquiries have ever since been directed to this point more particularly than any other.

Although I have read several authors on the subject such as Fordyce, Pringle, Sydenham, Linnæ, Jackson, Haygarth &c. I have avoided quotations, regarding a candid statement of facts to which I was an eye witness, preferable to the curæ & premature speculations of a novice in the science —

E. F.

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